The United Kingdom Government attaches great importance to the principle of self-determination as set out in Article 1.2 of the Charter of the United Nations and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That principle underlies our position on the Falkland Islands. Argentina continues to deny that these fundamental human rights apply to the people of the Falkland Islands, and also to act in ways which go against the principles set out in the United Nations Charter.

The United Kingdom remains committed to defending the rights of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their own political, social and economic future. We urge the Government of Argentina to respect the outcome of the referendum to be held on the Islands in March of this year. There will be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until the Islanders so wish.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**